

Southeast News

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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The Bread . . . The Cup

World Communion Sunday, October 4, 1970. Why did Jesus take the bread and the cup? Because they stood as the central focus of His commitment to God's love for the world. His table points to a fellowship of love that cuts across all the geographical and national, racial and social, economic and political barriers that divide us.

As you read John 21:15-19, a burning question from Jesus to Simon Peter is ours to answer this World Communion Sunday, "Do you love me?" To love Jesus Christ is to meet the needs of our neighbors near and far and to commit our lives to God and His love for the world.

Plans Under Way, 1970-71 Churchmanship Institutes

Growing out of concerns raised by some of our church leaders, a second series of Churchmanship Institutes is being set up. Although responses have not been received from all of the churches, the tentative schedule follows:

November 1, Nashville, Tenn., Howard Church; November 8, Birmingham, Ala., First Church; November 15, Sweetwater, Tenn., First Church; December 6, Huntsville, Ala., or Belvidere, Tenn.; December 13, Charleston, S. C., Plymouth Church; January 10, Atlanta, Ga., Bonanza Church; January 17, Buford, Ga., Duncan's Creek Church, or Bowman, Ga., Liberty Church; January 24, Roanoke, Ala., Lowell Church; January 31, Shawmut, Ala., Todd Church; February 7, Columbus, Ga., First Church; February 14, Montgomery, Ala., First Church; February 21, Andalusia, Ala., First Church, or Headland, Ala., Blackwood Church.

Each Institute will begin with a service of worship, followed by five small groups:

YOUTH MINISTRY — For youth leaders and officers, adult sponsors, teachers of youth, college age youth, youth choir members, people involved

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Association Meetings Scheduled

October is the month bringing the annual meetings of Southeast Conference associations. Since this is the time we do business of the associations, as well as enjoy the fellowship with one another, each church is urged to send a large delegation to its association meeting. Schedules are as follows:

OCTOBER 3, 9 A. M. (CDST), North Alabama Association, Robertson's Chapel, Arley, Alabama

OCTOBER 10, 10 A. M. (CDST), South Alabama - Northwest Florida Association, New Effort Church, Bonifay, Florida

OCTOBER 11, 2:30 P. M. (CDST), Central Alabama Association, Congregational Christian Church, East Tallassee, Alabama

OCTOBER 14, 10 A. M. and OCTOBER 15, 10 A. M. (EDST), East Alabama Association. Both sessions at Langdale Congregational Christian Church, Langdale, Alabama

OCTOBER 17, 10 A. M. (EDST), Georgia - South Carolina Association, Macon, Georgia

OCTOBER 24, 10 A. M. (CDST), Alabama - Tennessee Association, Huntsville United Church, Huntsville, Alabama

Rev. A. C. Nelson Resigns As Pastor Of State Line

Rev. A. C. Nelson, Lanett, Ala., has resigned as pastor of the State Line Church near Lanett, Alabama, effective October 11, 1970. Mr. Nelson writes: "Unless some church gets without a pastor and asks me to help them, I think I will rest and take it easy. I have had 44 years of regular pastoral service."

This is quite a record and we wish him well in these days.

LAITY

SUNDAY

Oct. 11, 1970

When the Commission for Lay Life and Work of the Southeast Conference met to map plans for the 1970-71 church year, it was poignantly aware that Laity Sunday, October 11, is fast approaching. This is a prime time for retrospection and recommitment to communicating the Christian faith.

We, as citizens of the kingdom of God, should be active in the work of the kingdom. Broadly, one may say that any activity that is truly good is a part of such work. It need not be religious in the traditional sense — we may give ourselves to those activities which we know God would have us do, for God's love reaches out to every need of men.

The Dutch theologian, J. C. Hoekendijk, in his book, *The Church Inside Out*, mentions three Greek words which describe the three aspects of the kingdom of God. The first is *Kerygma*, the essential proclamation that Jesus Christ is Lord. The second is *Koinonia*, or fellowship in depth with a few others. The third is *Diakonia*, or service to other people in the world. A combination of these three ingredients — response to the proclamation by turning the management of our lives to Jesus Christ; a continual openness and honesty with "the few", and entering into service to the world — will produce a wholeness that will bear fruit.

Sensitive personal witness must encompass the entire arena of our everyday life. This involves a broad sphere of activity. However, there is ample area for each of us to use the gifts and talents that God has given him to work in ways which will aid God's purposes.

Seeing is surely one of God's greatest gifts — really seeing, that is — seeing the significance in daily events, seeing the value and possibilities in people, and seeing through the surface

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LAITY SUNDAY

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of things to their reality. We believe that seeing is ninety percent of Christian witness. Witnessing is an art that consists more in the ability to SEE than in the ability to TELL.

The Council for Lay Life and Work has structured and defined the three locales in which lay people are called to fulfill their ministry and mission. As we reflect the frontier of the church's mission to the world in terms of the concentric circles, we might address ourselves to the question — "What is the most effective way to communicate the Christian faith into the world where we live and work?" The Council has developed an excellent film — "Laity Is Me . . . with You . . . in the World" — which portrays how Christian men and women have effectively witnessed as they work and participate in the world of business, politics, and social relationships each in his own particular circumstance. This resource is available to you through your Southeast Conference office.

It is earnestly hoped that each local church, through programs of information and education, will create a climate and provide opportunities of action for the laity. We invite each individual to share the responsibility of discovering the meaning and joy of churchmanship through study, fellowship and confrontation.

— Mollie N. Curtright

Huntsville United Church

Congratulations to the Rev. and Mrs. James E. Humphrey upon the birth of a daughter, Marion Virginia, on August 15, 1970. We are delighted that this new daughter has come to grace their home.

The Humphreys will soon be leaving Huntsville for Columbia, S. C.

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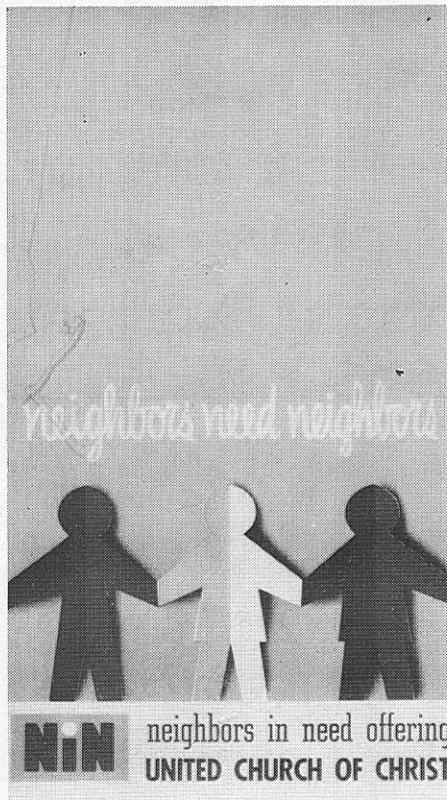
Roanoke, Alabama

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Neighbors In Need Offering 1970



There are three important services which you help provide through your gifts to the annual Neighbors in Need (NIN) all-church offering:

(1) HIGHER EDUCATION. Through the Commission for Racial Justice which administers national NIN funds, you aid deserving college students. There were 239 of them last year. Student aid is the largest item in the program budget of the commission for 1970 and 1971.

(2) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. Through the commission you give strong support to the legitimate demands of black people in the United States. Through community organization they are helped to correct critical social, economic, and political problems. Equal opportunity in business and labor, equal justice under the law, fair representation in educational and political boards and councils — in behalf of such goals you trained 14 persons in methods of community organization in 1969.

(3) COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION. Through the commission you encourage economic development of city and

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From The Pastor's Desk, First Church, Nashville

A member of Consistory is deeply concerned about the slow growth of our congregation. I appreciate this layman's concern more than he knows. I hope and pray it will spread.

A church grows in several ways. A survey was taken in Houston, Texas, the purpose to find out what motivated people to choose a particular congregation for their membership:

3%—the effectiveness of the preaching

8%—architectural beauty of the building

12%—prior denominational affiliation

18%—convenience of location

20%—influenced by the fact that there were people in the congregation whom they respected

37%—because their friends and neighbors invited them

It is interesting to note the largest percent chose a particular congregation "because their friends and neighbors invited them." Our congregation can grow, every member is an evangelist. When did you last invite a friend or neighbor to attend church school and church with you? Go the second step and offer them a ride.

— John Roemer

Todd Congregational Church, Shawmut, Ala.

The Rev. Bill Hodnett, pastor of the Todd Church, suggests that we think about this:

During the month of July the Todd Church averaged approximately \$230 per Sunday in the church offering and, in addition, the church gave \$102.45 to aid those suffering from the earthquake in Peru. This church remains quite active during the summer months.

* * * *

Jairus' daughter was pronounced dead but was raised to life by the Master's touch. The men who were physically blind were touched by Jesus and their eyes were opened. Christ took a deaf and dumb man aside, put His finger in his ears, touched his tongue and his ears were opened and his tongue loosened. You and I do not know what the Lord can do in our lives until we have faith in Him and let Him direct our lives.

News from the Churches of the Southeast Conference

Andalusia First Observes Christian Renewal Week

At a meeting in Atlanta last January, J. K. Murphy spoke of the Oak Grove Church's use of the study "The Local Church in God's Mission" and of the filmstrip series "Men for Others". It was refreshing to see such enthusiasm from a layman for a program in his church; but somehow I felt this program was not for our church.

Anyway, it is good for one congregation to know what another is doing, so we invited J. K. and his pastor, Warren Blankenhorn, to present this program at our Andalusia Church in April. The program was interesting and we were impressed, but the general feeling was that, although this may have been great for the Oak Grove Church, it was "not for us."

As summer approached, the question began to be asked among the congregation, "Aren't we going to have a revival?"

As one possibility among many, we considered trying the filmstrip series, "Men for Others." After all, it was a series of six filmstrips — just a perfect length for a week-long program.

With the pastor and the congregation not really sure that this was THE thing, we began to make preparations. The official church board appointed the pastor and Larry Briggs, a Bible college student, to organize the week. After Larry and I had thoroughly reviewed each of the filmstrips, we made arrangements to spend an evening in six different homes, inviting everyone in the congregation to be involved with one filmstrip in advance. Discussion followed each preview, but it was difficult for persons to see how their ONE filmstrip fitted into the total picture. As we approached the time that we called CHRISTIAN RENEWAL WEEK, there was still an air of uncertainty.

Certain aspects of the traditional revival were kept intact. For instance, we sang a variety of the gospel songs as preparation for the program. After the showing of the filmstrip, questions and discussions were encouraged. But when questions and comments did not flow from the congregation, the lead-

Peru Sufferers Receive Help

The earthquake which rocked a 300-mile area in Peru on May 31 lasted only forty seconds, but in this short time thousands lost their lives and tens of thousands their homes.

Our United Church of Christ is there through Church World Service, providing funds, food, medicine, blankets, clothing, and building and other materials. Within the first few days CWS arranged for distribution of 60 tons of clothing, 4,000 blankets, money, food and medical supplies. More than 50,000 persons are receiving food for work as they rebuild homes and schools and repair irrigation and sanitary systems.

Gifts to help this major relief effort may be sent through the conference office, marked for PERU RELIEF.

ers would ask penetrating questions which came from the prepared manual. At first, the comments of the people were directed to the leaders; but as the evening progressed, more and more persons would speak to each other.

The filmstrip series, "Men for Others", is designed to help free persons from the old concept of "Come, Come, Come to the Church in the Wildwood" to "The Church should go, go, go, into the world." It challenges us to what we as the Christian church should really be doing in the world.

A substantial number of persons attended all six nights. Their interest was evidenced not only by their presence but also by their growing degree of participation in the discussions. By putting all six nights together, persons would see how their one filmstrip fitted into the total picture. It was more difficult for those who came just one or two evenings.

The most noticeable result in our church has been the increased communication between persons. There is a new openness in speaking with one another and with the pastor. Such openness can lead to an increased Christian understanding of one another.

There is a good feeling about our CHRISTIAN RENEWAL WEEK. No longer do we feel that this experience was "not for our church." Instead, we sincerely believe that the study of "Men for Others" would be beneficial to any church.

Jim Jackson, Pastor

Bonanza, Jonesboro, Ga.

The Bonanza United Church of Christ, Jonesboro, Georgia, held their Vacation Bible School during the week of August 10 through August 14 with an increase of about 15 percent over last year's enrollment.

The Bible in relation to our everyday life was the major theme of all of the departments. The student's role of being a good neighbor and creating good neighborhoods was stressed.

Everyone who attended Bible School was graduated at a special ceremony on Sunday evening, August 16, with each class participating in a part of the program. Following the program, a display of their work was viewed.

Students and teachers learned much about how the Bible, written so long ago, still applies so directly to our "so-modern" world.

The following poem was written by the Junior Division, composed of third and fourth graders, for the program and as a part of their study:

"IF JESUS CAME"

If Jesus came to our world today
We don't think he'd like to stay
Because there is too much pollution in
the air,
Too much pollution everywhere.
Too many robbers, addicts and thieves
Who don't keep God's beliefs.
If Jesus came to Bonanza subdivision
He would think our brotherhood need-
ed revision.
The pool is dangerous, this we know;
Dogs and cats are free to go.
Picnics and ball games we all enjoy,
Shared with other girls and boys.
If Jesus came to our church
He would like it very much.
He'd be surprised how many come to
Sunday school;
Also, how many keep the Lord's Rule.
And we've all learned to be better
through Bible School.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

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rural areas. The whole community gains when small businesses are established successfully. When you open doors, minority businessmen can then help themselves — and their communities.

World Communion Sunday, October 4, is the suggested time for receiving the Neighbors in Need Offering.

SEC Youth Officers Set Year's Theme

"CRY OUT-" is the theme for SEC Youth for 1970-71. The word "cry" is really initials for "Communication, Responsibility for Youth". In explaining the theme, the officers who met at Central Church, Atlanta, Sept. 12, said: "The youth officers of the Southeast Conference feel that the youth have been limited in their church responsibilities. Now is the time to "cry out" for responsibilities that you are willing to strive for."

Participation in churchmanship institutes was discussed, as were possibilities for meeting with area youth. The first area meeting is scheduled for Nashville, Tenn., on Saturday, October 17. In addition to meeting with young people of the Nashville U. C. C. churches, the officers will have another planning session of their own.

INSTITUTES

(Continued from Page 1)

in higher education, Christian education committees, pastors.

EVANGELISM — Deacons, deaconesses, membership committees, evangelism committees, publicity committees, pastors.

STEWARDSHIP EDUCATION — For treasurers, finance committees, OCWM committees, trustees, Christian enlistment committees, pastors.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH — Deacons and deaconesses, outreach committees, social action committees, pastors.

PROGRAM PLANNING FOR ADULTS — Teachers of adults, men's and women's fellowship leaders or officers, young adults, persons interested in family education, Christian education committees, pastors.

Leadership will come from our local churches, association and conference committees, and conference and national staff.

Congregational leaders are urged to begin recruiting participants for these institutes. In addition to providing help for Christian witness throughout local churches, they provide an excellent means of fellowship.

YOUTH RALLY HELD AT PINE MOUNTAIN CAMP

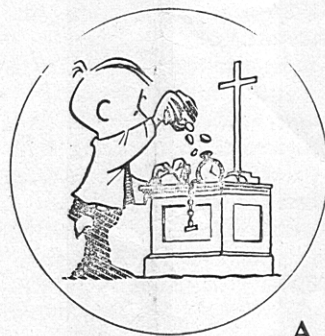
"The Ministry of the Church in Southeast Asia" was the theme for the summer rally of the United Church Youth of East Alabama Association August 28-30 at Pine Mountain Boy Scout Camp.

Terrell Shaddix, president of the group, presided, and Lanett Congregational Christian Church was host congregation. Participating were young people from the Lanett, Columbus, Oak Grove, and Phenix City Churches.

Chris Hodnett, son of the Rev. and Mrs. William A. Hodnett of Lanett, was the Saturday night speaker. During his recent military duty, Chris had spent some time in Southeast Asia. He showed interesting colored slides of the country and its people.

On Sunday morning the speaker was the Rev. Hal K. Jacks. Mr. and Mrs. Jacks and their children spent four years in Southeast Asia, serving as missionaries to Indonesia and living in Bandung on the island of Java. On furlough in the States for a year, the Jacks are members of Lanett First Baptist Church.

Local United Church youth leaders present were Mrs. E. G. Shaddix Jr., Mrs. John Dollar, and Mrs. Owen Holly of Lanett, and Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Murphy of Pine Mountain, Ga. Others present were Gwen Holley, John Dollar, and Rev. and Mrs. Walter Hall of Lanett.



A
Good Steward
Does Not Hold Back

OLD LIBERTY CHURCH PAYS OFF MORTGAGE

Last fall, October 4, 1969, the Old Liberty Church at Town Creek, Ala., paid in full the grant mortgage. Mr. and Mrs. Brown Bradford of the church presented a check for \$500 to the Rev. George Nishimoto, representing our national church, who saw to it that the Department of Church Development and Building in New York received the check. Also taking part in the presentation were the pastor, Rev. Richard Waugh, and the pastor-at-large of the North Alabama Association, Dr. Guy Colbert.

By paying off this grant mortgage, the Old Liberty Church makes possible the usage of this money by another church that needs to renovate a building or build a new building. Securing this grant mortgage some years ago, the Old Liberty Church was able to rebuild.

Peace And Hunger Youth Week Theme—A Reminder

YOUTH WEEK 1970 deals with some critical issues summarized in words of the late President John F. Kennedy: "Peace cannot survive in a world half-fed and hungry . . ."

The week of October 25 - November 1 has been designated as Youth Week. Churches of the Southeast Conference are urged to give youth and their leaders opportunity to present their concerns for a hungry world during that week, as well as to find ways of meeting the needs of suffering people.

A packet of materials for use during the observance is available for \$2.50 by writing to:

Youth Week 1970
Division of Youth Activities
1312 Massachusetts Ave., N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20005

Albert Schweitzer, after he had given up his music and his scholarship for the sake of his missionary work in Africa, found that these gifts came back to him sevenfold. In fact, the time came when he was lecturing at the great universities and playing the organ in all the leading capitals of the world. In order to receive, we must give!